

Message Text

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TO AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE

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TAGS: EGEN, XK

SUBJECT:SEMINAR ON MARGINAL COST

REF: A. SAN JOSE 3653

B. SAN JOSE 4170

1. DEPARTMENT HAS BEEN IN TOUCH WITH THE FOLLOWING ORGANIZATIONS REGARDING THE REQUEST FROM THE DIRECTOR OF COSTA RICAN SERVICIO NACIONAL DE ELECTRICIDAD FOR A SEMINAR IN SAN JOSE ON THE THEORY OF MARGINAL COST AND ITS APPLICATION IN SETTING ELECTRIC UTILITY RATES: THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF REGULATORY UTILITIES COMMISSIONS (NARUC), THE FEDERAL POWER COMMISSION (FPC), THE EDISON ELECTRIC INSTITUTE (EEI), THE AMERICAN PUBLIC POWER ASSOCIATION (APPA), AND THE FLORIDA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION (FPSC). REACTIONS FOLLOW BELOW.

2. NARUC. MR. ROGERS, GENERAL COUNSEL, SAID THE NARUC WOULD NOT BE ABLE TO PAY THE COSTS OF STAGING A SEMINAR IN SAN JOSE. EACH YEAR, HOWEVER, THE NARUC SPONSORS A
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SEMINAR ON MARGINAL COST AND RELATED REGULATORY THEORY

TO WHICH COSTA RICAN PARTICIPANTS WOULD BE WELCOME. THE NEXT SEMINAR WILL BE AUGUST 1-12, 1977. TUITION IS DOLLARS 500 PER PERSON, WHICH INCLUDES ROOM AND MEALS. DESCRIPTIVE LITERATURE WILL BE POUCHED TO THE POST.

3. FOR BUDGETARY REASONS THE FPC CANNOT UNDERTAKE THE TYPE OF SEMINAR REQUESTED BY THE SNE DIRECTOR.

4. EEI. WITH NO COMMITMENT, A STAFF MEMBER SUGGESTED THAT THE SNE DIRECTOR WRITE TO EEI PRESIDENT W. DONHAM CRAWFORD, 90 PARK AVENUE, NEW YORK, NEW YORK, AS A FIRST STEP IN DETERMINING WHETHER THE EEI MIGHT ORGANIZE A MARGINAL COST SEMINAR IN SAN JOSE. THE LETTER COULD REFER TO A MAJOR STUDY THAT IS NEARING COMPLETION BY THE EEI AND THE ELECTRIC POWER RESEARCH INSTITUTE ON ELECTRICITY RATES AND MARGINAL COST PRICING. TIMING OF STUDY MIGHT MAKE IT POSSIBLE TO INCLUDE COSTA RICA IN A SERIES OF SEMINARS LIKELY TO BE HELD AROUND THE U.S.

5. APPA. MR. JEFF TARBERT, DIRECTOR OF TRAINING, ALSO SUGGESTED THAT THE SNE DIRECTOR WRITE TO HIM. IT IS POSSIBLE THAT APPA COULD ORGANIZE A MARGINAL COST SEMINAR FOR SAN JOSE ON A COST-REIMBURSABLE BASIS. THE ADDRESS IS 2600 VIRGINIA AVENUE, N.W., WASHINGTON, D.C.

6. FPSC. MR. SWAFFORD, FPSC IN TALLAHASSEE, INFORMED US THAT FPSC COMMISSIONER BEVIS RECEIVED A JULY 20 LETTER FROM SNE DIRECTOR REQUESTING THAT THE FLORIDA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION STAGE A SEMINAR IN SAN JOSE ON REGULATORY ISSUES, COVERING TRANSPORTATION AS WELL AS UTILITIES. COMMISSIONER BEVIS HAS AGREED TO DO SO. THE PROBABLE DATES ARE NOVEMBER 22-24. WHILE THE FPSC WOULD NOT BE ABLE TO SPONSOR A SEPARATE SEMINAR ON MARGINAL COST THEORY, THIS SUBJECT COULD CERTAINLY BE INCLUDED IN THE PROGRAM CURRENTLY BEING PLANNED, ALTHOUGH NOT IN THE DEPTH REQUESTED REFTEL. PLEASE ASK THE SNE IF THEY SO DESIRE. THE FPSC HAS ALSO ASKED FOR GUIDANCE ON THE LEVEL TO WHICH SEMINAR PRESENTATIONS SHOULD BE AIMED, WHETHER THE AUDIENCE WILL BE TECHNICALLY ORIENTED

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OR INCLUDE A SIGNIFICANT NUMBER OF GENERALISTS. PLEASE TRY TO DETERMINE AND INFORM THE DEPARTMENT. THE FPSC HAS ALSO REQUESTED ANY INFORMATION THE EMBASSY MAY BE ABLE TO DEVELOP CONCERNING THE ORGANIZATION, SIZE, OWNERSHIP, AND RELATIONSHIP TO THE GOVERNMENT OF PUBLIC UTILITIES IN COSTA RICA - ELECTRIC POWER, GAS, TRANSPORTATION, ETC. ROBINSON

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